



New motorcycles keep ANP rolling  
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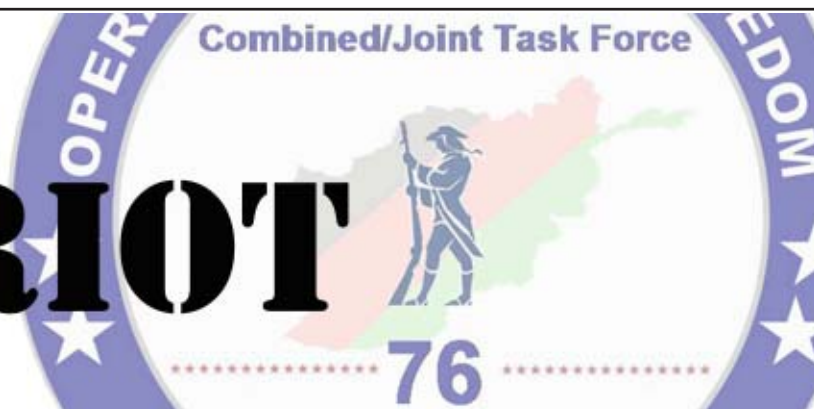
## Taliban leader killed in eastern Afghanistan

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Villagers turn in weapon cache  
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# THE PATRIOT



Vol 1, Issue 7

A CJTF-76 Publication

August 15, 2005

## General gives progress report

**CJTF-76  
commanding  
general gives  
update as  
mission nears  
half-way point**

**Sgt. Douglas DeMaio**  
20 Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM AIRFIELD— Military operations and civil assistance leading up to Afghanistan National Assembly elections are setting conditions for a secure and successful elections process.

From building roads to helping Afghan forces capture suspected terrorists, each undertaking combines to form a comprehensive effort to better serve Afghans leading up to the elections.

“The government of Afghanistan and the U.S., Coalition and Afghan security forces, along with the international community, are offering the Afghan people peace and prosperity,” said Army Maj. Gen.



A paratrooper from D Co, 1st Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division scans the perimeter while providing security in Chaki Wardak, Afghanistan Aug. 4. (Photo by Pfc. Michael Pryor, 82nd Public Affairs)

Jason Kamiya, operational commander for Coalition forces in Afghanistan. “The Taliban offer them continued fighting, death and violence.”

The difference is clear.

Commerce is improving; Afghans are finding employment and building a better quality of life.

For these reasons, nearly 12 million Afghans have registered to vote and continually improve the foundations that have been established since the defeat of the Taliban regime in late 2001, he said.

“Afghanistan is successfully undergoing a revolutionary change, and Afghan citizens will prove once

again they want a free Islamic Republic of Afghanistan on September 18,” Kamiya said. “Last year, the people of Afghanistan established a constitution and elected a president. On September 18<sup>th</sup>, they will take yet another step forward in electing a national assembly to give them a voice in their government.”

## TF Eagle commander looks back on year

**Story and photo by  
Sgt. Adrian Schulte**  
CJTF 76 Public Affairs

Looking out for the well being and safety of troops stationed around Afghanistan was a responsibility that was carried capably on the tall shoulders of Col. Robert Algermissen for the past year.

As commander of Task Force Eagle, Algermissen and his team

were responsible for responsibilities ranging from force protection and dining facilities to the day-to-day operations of the base.

The five major bases supporting Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan fell under Algermissen's eye; Bagram Airfield, Camp Eggers in Kabul, Karshi-Khanabad in Uzbekistan (commonly referred to as K-2), Forward Operating Base Salerno and Kandahar Air-

field.

Algermissen, who spent most of his time on Bagram, also played a key role working with local Afghans. It was a challenge and lesson in Afghan culture as Algermissen plodded his way through local politics. This was made easier with the help of his interpreter Sayed.

“My biggest challenge

**See EAGLE Page 4**



Col. Robert Algermissen, outgoing commander of Task Force Eagle, speaks to the crowd at a change of command ceremony Aug. 1.



# Coalition Voices / Opinion



**By Capt. Julie Rowan**  
*Task Force Strength Chaplain*

Self Care is very important to us all, if we want to be happy individuals and live long and healthy lives. We have chosen a career where the very nature of what we do is to put other's needs before our own needs. Maybe we don't understand what is involved in self-care. What is self-care? What does that mean to you? Have you failed in taking care of yourself?

How can we care for ourselves? In my minimal years of experience, I understand the core of the self is to produce wholeness. However, deeply wounded people struggle to overcome the damage already inflicted on self through abuse, misinformation, and dysfunction. The good news is God intends us to be whole selves, and He has provided the resources in order for us to achieve this wholeness.

Being a real self, a whole self, and an honest self is a good start and can be very self-satisfying. I believe the hardest thing for us to do is to love our selves, and yet, we have the capacity to both give and receive love.

As a chaplain, I desire to be healthy. This involves the

## Chaplain's Corner Self-Care

physical as well as the emotional. It is so easy to become emotionally overloaded and physically exhausted. I already recognize Type A traits in my daily activities. The demands of the hospital, ministry, and US army require equal priority. It is impossible to affect both without one or the other being diminished — or worse— my health deteriorating to the point that I can no longer be an effective minister or a good chaplain.

There is a difference between stress and burn out. Both are unacceptable positions. My self-care program begins with an understanding of the toll that the over-arousal of adrenalin-flow takes upon my body. Stress disease kills; burn out can permanently disable.

Relaxation exercises are becoming routine. As soldiers in the military, we are accustomed to running and doing physical training in order to stay fit for combat. Prayer/meditation/reflection is an integral part of my discipline.

I fully realize when I am in stressful situations. I get depressed and only stop to assess after I am already in the depths. I must do a better job of avoiding those situations/

persons/events, which I know will trigger stress.

I recall the days—not too long ago—when life was simple and uncomplicated. In reality, it still is. I must learn to get back to that time emotionally and physically while carrying out the will of God for my life. I must survive. Paul reminds me that God wants a “living sacrifice”, not a dead sacrifice.

We can use the word CARE as an acrostic to use as a guideline.

C- May your Christ/God come in and minister to you.

A- Always take time to pray.

R- Reward yourself, even when no one else does.

E- Experience the joy of caring for others.

Nothing helps you feel happier, healthy, and whole than when you care for others.

I have responded to God's covenant with me. I know that God has done something for me that I am unable to do for myself. He has freed me up to be and is empowering me as I yield. I draw strength within the intimacy of the fellowship. And may it ever be so. Amen

## Private Murphy by Master Sgt. Mark Baker



### THE PATRIOT

August 15, 2005

Vol. 1 Issue 7

**CJTF-76**  
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Maj. Gen. Jason Kamiya

**CJTF-76**  
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The Patriot is an unofficial publication authorized and provided by AR 360-1. All editorial content of The Patriot is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the CJTF-76 Public Affairs Office, Bagram Airfield. DSN 318-231-4356.

Email: schultea@cjtf76.centcom.mil  
The Patriot is published on the 1st and 15th of every month by the CJTF-76 Public Affairs Office.

Editorial publication is an authorized section for members of Coalition forces serving in Afghanistan. Contents of The Patriot are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or Combined Joint Task Force-76.

The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions for style, brevity and clarity.

## Photo from the field

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jamie Burkholder

Take pictures within your units. Look for unique shots that show your unit's mission and E-mail them to: [schultea@cjtf76.centcom.mil](mailto:schultea@cjtf76.centcom.mil)

In the subject line, type "Photo Contest" and your name.

Submit by end of each month. The winner will be notified by e-mail. Three photos max per month.

Winning photos will run in **The Patriot**.

Photographer will also receive a Commanding General coin and a 2-Star note.

Include Name, Rank, Unit, Job Description and hometown of photographer. Also, provide in the caption - the date, location, unit mission and identify any troops.



An Soldier from A Company, 391st Engineers, Task Force Pacemaker, sweeps for mines at Kandahar Airfield recently.



## Across Afghanistan / CJTF - 76



***These guys...***



***Turn this...***



***Into this...***

# Blowing the competition away

**Story by Spc. Blake Palmer**  
*Farah PRT*

FARAH PRT – When you hear thunder or a large bang in the distance, you usually think of a storm or a rifle range, but in Farah Afghanistan it is the men of Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team 5 or EOD 5. They wake up morning after morning to go out, pick up weapon caches at the local police station, take the caches out to a secured area, and then blow the cache sky high.

“What a way to start your day every day” said a member of the team.

The team is the first in the Farah province and it has made a big impact to the surrounding area. The team led is by Staff Sgt. Adam Whitman from Fort Benning GA. Pfc. Osborne Low of San Diego, CA, and Pvt. Jerrod Nixon of Ebensburg, PA. make the team complete.

The mission of the team here at Farah is to destroy captured enemy ordnance and weapon

caches, removal of bombs, and to find and destroy IEDs. In the past three months the team has destroyed a total of 32,081 weapons, and 52,238 pounds of explosives. The team has the highest number of destroyed ordnance in their company.

Whitman said that being here in Farah is a dream assignment for an EOD Soldier.

“We get to destroy equipment, ammunition, and to do our job in a way that the training has taught us”, said Whitman.

The Provincial Reconstruction Team commander, Lt. Col. Andrew Santa-Pinter, has given the team great praises for the superb job they have done and hope they continue on doing a great job.

“This EOD team is the first in the PRT and the first assigned here at Farah. The team has had great motivation on the work and are proactive to their job” said Santa-Pinter.

For the most part, the team continues

to set high goals for themselves and for the PRT. They make sure that Soldiers are trained on the newest threat for IEDs and what to look for while on patrol. The team has helped to set up IED-hunter teams that patrol for IEDs and bombs on the highways in Afghanistan.

“By taking these steps and training soldiers they have made it safer in Farah” said the Force Protection commander Capt. David Burger.

All in all, the team members of EOD 5 have done an excellent job in the Farah province. They continue to go out every day finding weapon caches and destroying captured weapons from the local authorities. The team itself has great experience behind them from their leader with eight years experience in the Army and the others with two years each.

Each has their own reasons why they got into this field, but all say the main reason is because “they get to blow crap up.”

## Brother re-enlists to stay with the family

**Story and photos by Pfc. Mike Pryor**  
*1-325 Public Affairs*

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, AFGHANISTAN – When Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Cliff Burgoyne decided to reenlist in the Army, he needed an officer from his unit to swear him in. Luckily, his brother was available.

Burgoyne, 39, from Slidell, La., is currently deployed to Afghanistan as the scout platoon sergeant with 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 325<sup>th</sup> Airborne Infantry Regiment, 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division. His brother, Capt. Jeffrey T. Burgoyne, 34, is the commander of the battalion’s B Company.

Capt. Burgoyne reenlisted his brother by having him raise his right hand and recite the oath of enlistment in front of a crowd of paratroopers during a short ceremony outside the battalion’s tents here July 28.

“It made it very special for me. It was a real honor,” Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Burgoyne said.

The Burgoyne brothers served together in the Louisiana National Guard during the late 1980’s before following separate paths through the regular Army. It took almost fifteen years for them to be reunited in the same unit.

Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Burgoyne said he pulled some strings to be reassigned with his brother. He joined the battalion in February of this year.



Capt. Jeffrey T. Burgoyne, commander, B Co., 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 325<sup>th</sup> Airborne Infantry Regiment, 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division, re-enlists his older brother, Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Cliff Burgoyne, a platoon sergeant in the same battalion, during a ceremony at Bagram Airfield, July 28

Being in the same unit together has been great, he said, even though he now has to take orders from his younger brother.

“Everybody is part of the same team. I know my place,” he said.

Not everyone in the battalion does. The brothers said they are sometimes mistaken for each other.

“People come up to talk to me and then after a few sentences they realize I’m not the person they’re looking for,” Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class

Burgoyne said. “I just go along with the conversation until they figure it out.”

Because of the way the battalion is organized, Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Burgoyne’s scout platoon could potentially fall under his brother’s direct command during this deployment. Capt. Burgoyne said he worries about putting his brother in harm’s way if that happens, but there’s no one he trusts more to get the job done.

“If I had to send him on a mission, I’d know things would be getting done right,” he said.

Like most Soldiers, the Burgoyne brothers have family back home who worry. Being together should make it easier on them, Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Burgoyne said.

“Mom’s always asking, ‘Where’s Jeff going? What’s Cliff doing?’” he said. Now at least she’ll know that wherever they are, they’re together, he said.

The Burgoyne brothers said they are looking forward to working together on this deployment. They’d like to remain in the same unit for as long as possible, they said, but if the Army has other plans for them they’re alright with that, too – they’ll still be able to see each other during their annual duck hunting trip back in Louisiana.

“Just tell all the people in Slidell not to kill all the ducks and fish ‘til we get home,” Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Burgoyne said.



## Across Afghanistan / CJTF - 76

# Colonel remembers year at war

### EAGLE from page 4

was understanding who the different local power brokers are and their relationships with each other,” Algermissen said. “Many are former warlords or Afghan Militia Fighters. My interpreter, Sayed, helped me understand who they were.”

Sayed’s name comes across Algermissen’s lips constantly when talking about his mission in Afghanistan. Sayed, a short, soft-spoken man, served as Algermissen’s personal political advisor as he navigated his way through the deployment.

“He is a phenomenal individual,” Algermissen said of his interpreter and friend.

One of Algermissen’s proudest accomplishments while in Afghanistan was an idea Sayed came up with and he helped facilitate, Bagram Airfield’s Bazaar.

The bazaar is immensely popular with the troops and civilians stationed on Bagram. It offers them a chance to get some cheap movies, jewelry, rugs or other souvenirs. The vendors at the bazaar come

from over 100 villages in the Parwan province to sell their goods to the coalition personnel. But instead just taking the profits for themselves, the bazaar will benefit the vendors’ home villages.

Each vendor pays a fee to participate in the bazaar, Algermissen explained. That fee is then deposited into an account from which the vendors’ villages can look to for future projects such as wells and schools. The village elders and mullahs decide which projects will be done and the Parwan province’s governor has oversight.

Along with helping the villagers of the surrounding province improve their quality of life, Algermissen also said he was proud of the quality-of-life changes he made on the bases he managed.

“It’s hard to imagine what this base was like a year ago,” he said. “So much happens everyday here to improve the quality of life.”

Among other things on Bagram alone, the main entry-control point has been improved, more roads are paved and the base has been cleaned up, removing sev-



Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy Green, TF Eagle Command Sergeant Major, receives the Afghan Presidential Medal along with Col. Timothy Algermissen, TF Eagle outgoing commander, and their interpreter Sayed at the TF Eagle change of command ceremony Aug. 1 on Bagram Airfield. Algermissen and Green were also presented with bronze stars. Green gave his to Sayed, who proved to be an invaluable asset to TF Eagle.

eral of the old tank hulls and fighting positions that littered the area.

A year in a foreign land has left an impression on Algermissen. He counts seeing the difference in lifestyle between the Afghan and American people as his most striking memory.

“Going through some of these villages and seeing their way of life must have been similar to what Alexander the Great saw when he was here thousands

of years ago,” he said. “It’s amazing to see that and realize that it must not be too different that what it was like 2,000 years ago.”

Algermissen was relieved in a change of command ceremony on Bagram Airfield Aug. 1 by Col. Joyce Stevens, who served as his deputy since March. Col. Algermissen, along with Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy Green and his translator Sayed, were presented with the Afghan Presidential

Medal. Algermissen will head to Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque, N.M. to be the chief of staff of a test unit.

“On one hand I’m sad to say goodbye, but I’m also excited to get back to the states,” Algermissen said. “It was great to be a part of the effort in the Global War on Terrorism. Whatever I have been able to contribute, I have, so it has been an honor to be over here actually in the fight.”



Col. Joyce Stevens, incoming commander of TF Eagle, receives the guidon from CJTF-76 Deputy Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Jack Sterling, during a change of command ceremony Aug. 1 on Bagram Airfield.



### HAKA!

New Zealand troops from the Bamian Provisional Reconstruction Team perform a Haka during a distinguished visitor trip to the Bamian PRT. The Haka is a ancient, ceremonial dance performed by the Maori, New Zealand’s native people. (Photo by Capt. Dwayne Wirfle, CJTF-76 Public Affairs)



## Across Afghanistan / CJTF - 76

# Baghran Valley to receive \$2.4 million for reconstruction

Story by Sgt. First Class  
Todd Oliver  
CJTF-76 Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – Baghran Valley, once home to Taliban leader Mullah Omar, will receive more than \$2 million in U.S. reconstruction funds over the next six months.

\$2.4 million will go toward projects in an effort to bring peace, prosperity and security to the region once known as a bastion of Taliban ideology. Projects include reconstruction of the area's most prominent Mosque, a new high school, road repair and equipping the local police force with motorcycles.

The projects were announced during a recent ground-breaking ceremony attended by a number of Afghan and U.S. officials.

During the ceremony, Provincial Reconstruction Team Commander, U.S. Army Lt. Col. Jim Hogberg said, "The people of this valley have asked for our help and we're delivering." Hogberg was accompanied by approximately 30 members of his reconstruction team. He also congratulated the Afghan people for supporting their own peaceful future and reminded them of the importance of voting in the upcoming elections.

The provincial governor's chief of staff and numerous dignitaries from throughout the province attended the ceremony. Afghan and U.S. officials distributed peace newspapers and free radios to the crowd.

As the provisional reconstruction team announced the projects, former Taliban leader Rais Baghami, a participant in the government of Afghanistan's reconciliation program, announced his intent to run in September's parliamentary elections.

"Reconstruction is my jihad," Baghami said adding that he was committed to helping the PRTs



Kandahar province Governor Assa Dullah Khalid, Lt. Col. Bert Ges, commander of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 319<sup>th</sup> field artillery, and Lt. Col. Robbi Ball, commander of the Kandahar PRT, cut the ribbon on a bridge near the Baghran Valley. The bridge, serves as an important link to the village and its neighbors once the river begins flowing again. It has already become a vital commercial artery for the people on both sides to transport goods and services as well as providing an efficient route for medical patients and emergency vehicles. (U.S. Army photo)

with their reconstruction efforts in the area.

One of the area's most viable projects is the paving of a 700-meter road through the town's center which will give the people living in the local area easier access to the shopping district.

In another nearby ceremony recently, Kandahar Province Governor Assa Dullah Khalid, U.S. Army Lt. Col. Bert Ges, commander of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 319<sup>th</sup> Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, and U.S. Army Lt. Col. Robbie Ball, commander of the Kandahar Provisional Reconstruction Team, cut the ribbon on a bridge spanning the Tarnak River. The bridge cost nearly \$300,000 and took almost two years to complete. The bridge links the Baghran Valley with nearby major centers of commerce that will improve the overall economy of the area.

The projects, which will use contracted Afghan construction firms, are expected to take anywhere from three to six months to complete.

# Former Taliban comes back into fold

Story by Sgt. Chuck D. Meseke  
TF Devil Public Affairs

GARDEZ - Mullah Haji Jailani, a prominent former Taliban leader in Gardez, entered the Afghan government's reconciliation program Aug. 13, at the Gardez Provincial governor's building.

Jailani was greeted back into Afghan society by the province's acting governor, Maj. Gen. Hai Gullsaliman Khail, and Darwish, the Minister of Information and Culture.

Under the reconciliation program, former enemies of the Afghan government have the opportunity to lay down their arms and rejoin Afghan society peacefully.

More than 30 individuals have joined the process so far in Gardez Province, Darwish said.

"We were the only other province besides Kabul to set up a special commission just for reconciliation," he added.

He also believes that the commission has helped make the process faster and more effective at convincing once troublesome rebels to rejoin in building a peaceful and prosperous Afghanistan.

"Our commission is very busy," said Khail. "We used to hold meetings for this sort of thing once a week, now we have it twice a week."

"The stabilization of this program was needed," said Khail. "[Those who reconcile] can play a big part in rebuilding Afghanistan."

Darwish hopes that Jailani's efforts to reconcile with the Afghan government will convince others who are thinking about reconciliation that the process is worthwhile and important. It is hoped that the majority of former Taliban members will take part in this opportunity to end the violence in Afghanistan and take part in the country's future economic and political prosperity.

## Hello and Goodbye



ROK soldiers from the 100th Engineer Group stand in formation Aug. 12 during a farewell ceremony at the clamshell on Bagram Airfield. The Korean engineer contingent on Bagram, took the time to say farewell to the soldiers leaving and hello to the incoming personnel. (Photo courtesy of the Korean Army)

## Welcome to the CJOA



**Name:**  
Col. Jeffrey  
McKittrick

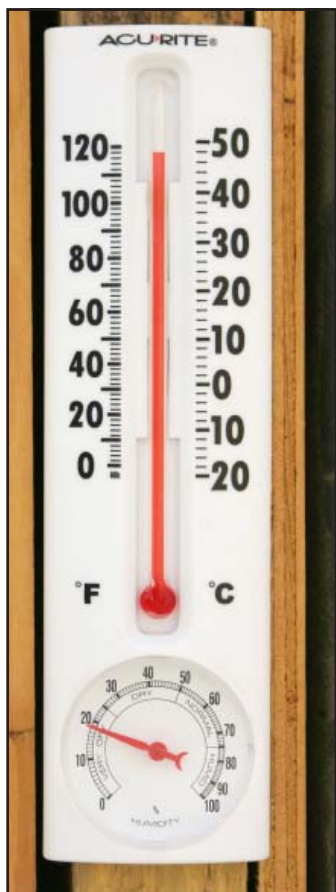
**Job:**  
Staff Judge  
Advocate  
CJTF-76

**Arrived:**  
July 11

"I'm looking forward to the challenges we face to provided the best support possible to the Government of Afghanistan and to make them as successful as possible as a sovereign nation."



# Regional Command East / Task Force Devil



During a normal patrol Marines carry an average of 60 pounds gear, weapons and ammunition. Many of these patrols take place during the hottest times of the day and with an average temperature of over 100 degrees. Marines must be careful or suffer heat injuries.

**Story and photos by Sgt. Robert M. Storm**  
2/3 Marines

JALALABAD— Frequently, Marines must adapt and overcome, and for Marines and sailors from 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, adapting to the weather in Afghanistan is proving to be a challenge they are surmounting.

“My girlfriend in Phoenix tried to write me and complain about the heat. I just laughed and told her not to even go there,” said Jeremy T. Hooee, infantryman, from Zuni, New Mexico. “We have to drink a case of water every time we go out on patrol just to keep from passing out. Your head pounds and your cammies are completely soaked like you took a shower in them, but you just tough it out because that’s the job we do.”

Jalalabad is experiencing a heat wave in an area already notorious for its heat. With average temperatures during July exceeding 115 degrees, the Marines and sailors suffer through each day. To make



Navy Lt. Charles G. Emond, battalion surgeon, works with an Afghan child near Jalalabad.

matters worse, when the Marines and sailors go out on patrol, they must wear a flak vest with two heavy plates, Kevlar helmet, and ammo pouches along with other necessary gear like first aid kits. The resulting load is usually about 60 pounds and must be worn throughout the day and night while outside of the forward operating base.

“When we go outside the wire and have to put on all our gear it’s like putting on a sweater in the middle of summer to go jogging,” said Lance Cpl. Garfield, infantry-

man, from Columbus, Georgia. “The patrols aren’t physically challenging to your muscles, it’s just the heat that kills you.”

The daytime temperatures are so high that water must be left in the shade, or it becomes too hot to drink. More than one Marine has complained of burning his tongue on the water left out in the sun. The water for the shower is solar heated, and Marines and sailors find that during the middle of the day when many would like to shower for some relief from the heat, finding that re-

lief is impossible because the water is so hot it hurts.

“The showers can’t be used during the day; it’s crazy because you’ll actually be sweating in the shower it is so hot,” said Hooee.

Medical personnel for the battalion report very few heat casualties, and most of the cases are from the beginning of the deployment. The outside temperature is monitored and rated by a system of flag colors. Every hour of every day is recorded so that battalion leaders can adjust workloads to prevent heat casualties.

“We haven’t had a day in Afghanistan that hasn’t been black flag, referring to the highest level accorded for daytime temperatures. The leadership in this battalion - officers, staff non-commissioned officers, and non-commissioned officers are doing a good job of making sure the Marines and sailors aren’t overworked and that they stay hydrated,” said Chief Petty Officer Joseph R. Burds, senior medical department representative, from El Paso, Texas. “We would know if they weren’t.”



Staff Sgt. Carlos J. Ortega, platoon commander with 2/3 Marines, patrols in the heat of Jalalabad.



In order to protect civilians and prevent insurgents from disrupting the MEDCAP, Marines searched citizens before allowing them to seek help. Many people submitted to the search with understanding and a good nature.



## Regional Command East / Task Force Devil

# Villagers turn in weapons

Story and photo by  
**Sgt. Robert M. Storm**  
2/3 Marines

JALALABAD – Afghans from the Sarur Village, Dari Nur District, Nangarhar Province, came forward to turn in a weapons cache, July 26, to Whiskey Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, currently serving in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

“My job is to recover illegal weapons by any means available. Sometimes we have to use force, but sometimes, luckily, the villagers in the area will come forward to let us know about them,” said Capt. Javier Torres, Whiskey company commander, from Juana Diaz, Puerto Rico. “We’re the first outsiders these people have seen since they were invaded by the Russians, so it’s important for us to build trust. We didn’t come in and search all the houses because they showed us the weapons cache, and we want them to trust us so they’ll come forward again.”

ward again.”

The villagers at first wanted the Marine Corps to pay \$500 for the weapons before they would reveal the location, but after some easy negotiating, they agreed to give up the site in return for medical assistance.

At an elevation of 4,400 feet, the village is situated between mountains and takes more than four hours to reach by foot. The trail leading to the village is inaccessible by vehicle and starts at 1,300 feet. The five-kilometer hike ascends 3,000 feet making it remote enough that even the Afghan National Army doesn’t patrol the area. Due to the village’s isolated location, basic medical care is unavailable. To seek treatment, the villagers must first make a three hour hike down to the nearest road then travel to a nearby city.

“It’s amazing people live up here. At one point the trail we took had a sheer cliff drop off on one side. This is one of the hardest hikes I’ve ever done,” said Lance Cpl. Joshua Britner,



Some of the weapons turned in by villagers in the Dari Nur District in Nangarhar Province.

motarman, from Freemont, Ohio.

While many times the Marine Corps is known for an aggressive approach, the Marines chose a light-handed option in the hopes that three other adjacent villages would reveal any concealed weapons hidden in their areas. The villages’ isolation makes them perfect

locations for storing munitions. Without local help, the caches would never be found. After recovering the munitions, the problem of getting the cache down the mountain surfaced. The only workable solution was to employ the use of mules to carry the munitions back down.

“We are very happy

to help; with the cooperation of the ANA we are glad the Marines are here. They bring peace and security. We want to cooperate and will help look for more weapons,” said a village elder through the interpreter Sayed Noorullah. “We have no medicine or schools, so for Marines to bring us help is a great thing.”

## Six enemy killed, three Soldiers hurt in Wazikwa

Story by Sgt. First Class  
**Todd Oliver**  
CJTF-76 Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD—Six enemy combatants were killed and three U.S. service members and an Afghan interpreter were wounded during offensive operations in eastern Afghanistan Aug. 9.

The injured were evacuated to medical facilities at nearby U.S. bases and then to Landstuhl Medical Center in Germany where they are recovering.

Afghan and U.S. forces were conducting offensive operations near Wazikwa in Paktika province, in order to defeat and disrupt enemy activity.

The Afghan and U.S. patrol made contact with enemy forces

near Wazikwa. The enemy fled shortly afterwards toward a nearby cave complex.

Afghan and U.S. forces pursued the enemy combatants toward the cave complex killing one. The three U.S. soldiers and interpreter were wounded during the fight. Several hours later during pursuit operations the same Afghan and U.S. patrol came into contact with additional enemy forces resulting in five enemy killed in action.

“The combination of Afghan and U.S. forces are having great success against the enemy in Afghanistan,” said LTC Jerry O’Hara, Combined Joint Task Force-76 spokesman. “We will continue to aggressively seek the enemy out until there are no safe havens left for them in Afghanistan.”

## Taliban leader killed in eastern Afghanistan

Story by Sgt. First Class  
**Todd Oliver**  
CJTF-76 Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD - U.S. Forces confirmed that Taliban leader Qari Amadullah was killed during heavy fighting near the city of Wazikwa in Eastern Afghanistan Aug. 9.

Amadullah was believed to have commanded up to fifty Taliban fighters in the region and was thought to be in possession of a number of weapon systems to include rockets and rocket propelled grenades.

“Killing this individual will significantly disrupt Taliban operations in the region,” said Brig. Gen James

G. Champion, Combined Joint Task Force-76 Deputy Commanding General. “We hope that with his death, Amadullah’s forces are able to find the courage to break with the Taliban organization and begin to reconcile with the government of Afghanistan in their efforts to rebuild this war torn nation.”

Amadullah was killed during a firefight with Afghan National Army soldiers and Paratroopers assigned to the 1st battalion, 508th (Airborne) Infantry Regiment. Five other militants were killed and three U.S. service members were wounded. Afghan and U.S. forces were conducting operations in the area designed to kill or capture Taliban leaders.



## Regional Command South / Task Force Bayonet

# Easy Riders

Story and photos by Staff Sgt.  
Jacob Caldwell  
TF Bayonet Public Affairs

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – Members of Task Force Gun Devil handed over 30 new motorcycles July 27 at Kandahar Airfield.

Soldiers from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 319<sup>th</sup> Airborne Field Artillery Regiment and the 492<sup>nd</sup> Civil Affairs Battalion handed over the Chinese made Zarang 18-125 motorcycles to the Kandahar Provincial Police Department in an effort to better enable the local police to provide security for the upcoming parliamentary elections, according to Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Derek Smith, TF Gun Devil Civil Affairs Non-Commissioned Officer.

Careful planning and consideration went into the hand-off of these motorcycles, drawing from the experience of past efforts.

“We are working through the central government of Kandahar with the new police chief,” said Smith, “He will have oversight of the distribution of the motorcycles to the various districts.”

“In the past we gave the vehicles to the individual districts. The problem with that was that the central government was not able to track what districts had what vehicles and they were not able to supply the appropriate parts and money for fuel,” explained Smith, “The districts kept



Yar Muhammad, a Kandahar Police Officer, inspects motorcycles before loading them onto a truck at Kandahar Airfield. The motorcycles were donated to the Kandahar Provincial Police Department by Task Force Gun Devil. The motorcycles are being donated to the police to better enable them to provide security during the upcoming parliamentary elections.

going to the coalition forces instead of the central government for supplies. Distributing the motorcycles this way reinforces the central government.”

But on a more practical note, something as simple as being able to quickly repair a motorcycle and put it back into service was also considered. This problem should be alleviated by the fact that these bikes were purchased from a local distributor and also assembled by a local Kandahar mechanic, according to Smith.

In addition to the 30 motorcycles given today, there are plans for the purchase and distribution of 10 trucks in the near future, said Smith.



Lt. Col. Bert Ges, Task Force Gun Devil Commander, test drives a motorcycle before handing them off to officers from the Kandahar Police Department.

## Lots of mileage out of these shoes



Army Capt. Eddie J. Smith, an Army Reservist serving as personnel officer, fits an Afghan girl with a pair of sandals.

Story and photos by SFC Stephen M. Lum,  
TF Bayonet Public Affairs

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD — What started out as a simple idea of giving away 75 pairs of children’s shoes quickly became an exercise in survival for Army Capt. Eddie J. Smith, a mentor with 1st Brigade, 205th Corps, Regional Command Advisory Group – South, Embedded Trainer/Mentor (ETT) program at Sher Zai Camp. More than 50 excited children rushed the pickup truck as it pulled up to the Afghan National Army officer’s compound outside Sher Zai July 22.

Fortunately, for Smith, an Army Reservist serving as personnel officer, and his assistant Sgt. 1st Class Alfonso Aguilar, there were several Afghan National Army soldiers to slow down the persistent children. Smith climbed into the bed of his truck and preceded fit a young girl with a pair of shoes. The fitting lasted for only two children, as many little arms reached through the “barricade” of ANA soldiers to grab shoes from the two, three-foot square boxes. He gave up and poured the rest of the shoes on to the ground

outside the truck where they were gone in seconds like bargain hunters at a one-hour sale.

“My wife, Kina, and her friend LaVonda Moore, came up with the idea of collecting shoes for children of Afghanistan,” said Smith, normally a ninth-grade algebra teacher in Dallas, Texas. “Members of their Women of Destiny organization brought donations to the meeting location at Calvary Philadelphia Church, where LaVonda’s husband, Rev. J.H. Moore Jr., holds services. My wife is very supportive of what I’m doing down here. She realizes this is a humbling experience from God.”

“Even my boys, Donovan and Kyron are very understanding,” said Smith, “especially since I’m get to contact them on a regular basis. They are really proud of what I’m doing.”

“I’d like to say thank you to the Women of Destiny, who are taking up a collection of toys, blankets, tablets and pencils for my next visit,” said Smith.

“I’m ready to do it again,” said Smith, even after the flurry of the shoe distribution. “I am really enjoying this tour and being a part of history in the making.”



# What's Happening / News You Can Use

## Get mail faster

Note from spouse.

I discovered today why letters from Afghanistan go through JFK. The mail clerks in Afghanistan are trained to put any letters marked "FREE" where the stamp is supposed to go into the bags destined for JFK. Any letters marked "MPS" get off-loaded at Ramstein where they are sorted and delivered to CMRs in Europe.

Families should tell their Soldier spouses to be sure and mark their letters to Europe-based DoD addresses "MPS" instead of "FREE." Of course, mail going to the states can be marked "FREE" when mailed from downrange.

Just want to pass along a helpful tip my husband learned from talking to the mail clerks in Afghanistan.

## GI Bill Apprenticeship and OJT program offers up to \$12,000

If you are currently in the guard or reserve, the On-The-Job Training (OJT) Program offers you an alternative way to use your VA (GI Bill) education and training benefits.

While you are being trained for a new job, you can receive monthly training benefits from the Veterans Affairs in addition to your regular salary, that means you can receive up to \$753 a month (\$216 for Reserve) tax-free, on top of your regular salary! That's up to \$12,000 in cash benefits over 2 years, for training in an On-The-Job or Apprenticeship training program.

You may be eligible if you are otherwise eligible for the GI Bill either under the Active Duty (Veteran) or Reserve GI Bill programs. Contact your local State Approving Agency (SAA). Your SAA will help you get started on the process and answer any questions you may have. To get more information on the GI Bill directly from the VA, call toll free 1-888-GI-BILL-1.

## \$90 billion in scholarships available

Did you know that billions of dollars in scholarships go unused each year? The Military.com Scholarship Finder is a great place to start looking for money for school.

To uncover 90 billion dollars in scholarships, visit <http://www.military.com/education/scholarship>.

## Hearing on readiness of Guard and Reserve

The chairman of the U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Senator Larry Craig, conducted a field hearing in Boise, Idaho last week to examine how well the United States is prepared for the return of National Guard and Reserve troops.

"Unlike active duty personnel, the men and women of the National Guard and Reserve do not return to a military base where they have a network of people and services. Instead, we send them back to their old jobs, to their families and friends. I want to make sure that we are ready, so that when our Guard and Reserve come back, they receive the help they need," said Craig (R-Idaho).

Idaho Governor Dirk Kempthorne and Senator Craig questioned members of the Department of Veterans Affairs and other military leaders about insuring a smooth transition home. Among other things, the lawmakers are concerned about healthcare and ensuring those who do not live near a V.A. hospital still receive treatment.

So far, more than 393,000 veterans have been discharged from service since the start of the war in Iraq, said Jonathan Perlin, Veterans Affairs health undersecretary. Roughly 60 percent of those soldiers are reservists or guardsmen, he said. He added that 26 percent of all those discharged have sought VA health care.

## DOL improves USERRA complaint process

U.S. Labor (DOL) Secretary Elaine L. Chao announced a new service to help ensure National Guard and reserve servicemembers return to the jobs and benefits they are entitled to under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA).

The latest improvement by the Department of Labor is a website where a USERRA or veterans' preference complaint can be filed electronically. Developed by the Labor Department's Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS), the form is called the VETS Form 1010.

It is easy to fill out and can be filed in seconds electronically. Employers can obtain detailed information about USERRA by calling 1-866-4-USA-DOL or by visiting [www.dol.gov/vets/programs/userra](http://www.dol.gov/vets/programs/userra).

## New Army mentorship program offered

The new Army Mentorship Community and Army Mentorship Resource Center websites are now operational and available to those with Army Knowledge Online access.

As part of the new mentorship philosophy, "Leaving a Legacy Through Mentorship," the sites are designed to help bring mentors and mentees together. All Active Component Soldiers, Reserve Component Soldiers, Department of Army Civilians, Spouses, Retirees, Veterans, and Contractors, who are authorized AKO access, are encouraged to participate in the program.

Within the Army Mentorship Community, there are multiple tailored mentorship forums. Each forum offers the opportunity for open dialogue between voluntary mentors and those seeking advice, guidance, and mentorship. In these forums, open discussions are highly encouraged in order to help others develop and grow personally and professionally.

The Army Mentorship Resource Center offers valuable information for both mentors and mentees including related articles, a mentorship handbook, a sample Individual Development Action Plan, and a searchable mentorship profile server for mentors. Visit <http://mentorship.army.mil> and you can also log on to the AKO Army Mentorship Community.

## Submit your unit's story to The Patriot

Tell the whole CJOA what your unit is doing.

The Patriot is always on the lookout for amateur journalists and photographers who have a story to tell.

Send your stories to [schultea@cjtf76.centcom.mil](mailto:schultea@cjtf76.centcom.mil).

Stand alone photos are also welcome.

Remember when submitting stories and photos to remember the 5 W's of journalism: who, what, where, when and why.

Also include full names, rank and units of troops involved and of the author.

Stories will be edited for content and to meet journalistic standards.



### Free Stuff!

The Patriot will feature a web site per issue which offers free stuff for service members.

### Free Care Packages

<http://operationmilitarypride.org/smsignup.html>